

connection with an electrical conductor; and

15 a separate spring forming another piece
of the contact, the spring being located in
the axial hole defining the male contact
receiving end of the first tubular portion,
the spring including a forward portion and
rear portion, the forward portion having a
plurality of forwardly and inwardly extending
fingers which terminate near the free male
contact receiving end of the first tubular
portion for resiliently grasping ^a ~~the~~ male pin
in close proximity to the free [~] male contact
receiving end.

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1 2. (Amended) The contact defined in claim 1
wherein the socket body further includes a third portion
in the form of a solid generally cylindrical section
disposed between the first and second portions and
5 wherein each of the fingers includes a male pin engaging
surface and wherein the male pin engaging surfaces of the
fingers are arranged to grasp the male pin at a distance
along the longitudinal axis within a range of about .025
to .045 inches from the free male contact receiving end
10 of the socket body.

1 3. (Amended) The contact defined in claim 2
wherein each of the fingers flare outwardly and forwardly
of the respective pin engaging surface thereof [out at
the ends thereof] for facilitating insertion of the male
5 pin in between the fingers.

1 4. (Amended) The contact defined in claim 1
wherein each of the fingers has an inwardly disposed
dimple which forms the pin engaging surface for engaging
[engage] the male pin.

1 5. (Amended) The contact defined in claim 4
wherein the dimples are staggered [disposed] along the
[extent] lengths of the individual fingers with the
dimples being positioned at different axial distances
5 from the free male contact receiving end of the first
tubular portion of the socket body.

[Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice.

1 6. 7. (Amended) The contact defined in claim 1
wherein the first tubular portion of the socket body is
crimped onto the rear portion of the spring [contact].

A 1 7. 8. (Amended) The contact defined in claim 1
wherein the forward portion of the spring terminates
axially inwardly of the free male contact receiving end
of the first tubular portion of the socket body and
5 wherein the free end of the first tubular portion of the
socket body is rolled over to extend radially inwardly

beyond the forward portion [end] of the spring to prevent removal of the spring from the hole and to center a mating pin contact.

1 8. (Amended) A two piece female contact comprising:

3 a [tubularly] cylindrically shaped ^{socket} body member formed as a single part comprising one ^{socket} piece of the contact, the body member having first and second tubular portions separated by a solid center portion extending along a longitudinal axis, the first tubular portion defining a first axially disposed blind bore with a free end for receiving a male contact, 10 the second tubular portion defining [and] a second axially disposed blind bore sized and shaped to receive an electrical conductor; and

3 15 a separate male contact engaging spring forming another piece of the ^{female} contact, the spring being seated entirely in the first bore, the spring having front and rear portions, the front portion of the spring having a female coupling portion adjacent to 20 the free end of the first tubular portion of the socket body member and the rear portion of the spring and the first tubular portion of

the body member [socket body] having
cooperative securing means for securely
25 holding the spring in fixed position within
the body member.

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10. (Amended) The contact defined in claim 8
wherein the first tubular portion of the socket
body member defines a tubular wall and wherein the
cooperative securing means comprises a selected
5 portion of the [tubularly shaped] tubular wall
being roll formed into the rear portion of the
spring.

Claim 11, line 5, after "the" (second
occurrence) insert - - first blind - - .

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11. 12. (Amended) The contact defined in claim 8
further comprising a male pin adapted to be
inserted into the front female coupling portion of
the spring, the female coupling portion having a
5 plurality of forwardly projecting fingers which are
arranged to engage the male pin inserted
therebetween in close proximity to the free end of
the first blind bore [socket body].

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12. 13. (Amended) The contact defined in claim 11
wherein the fingers have male pin engaging surfaces
which are arranged to engage the male pin at a
distance of within the range of about .025 to 0.45

5 inches from the free end of the first blind bore
[tubularly shaped member].

1 ~~13.14.~~ (Amended) A male/female contact system
for coupling a male pin contact to a female socket
contact, comprising:

a male pin contact;

5 a female socket contact formed in two
separate pieces, the first piece being in the
form of a tubular socket member having a first
[hole] blind bore therein with an open free
end [for receiving the male pin contact] and
10 having a second blind bore [hole] therein
sized and shaped for receiving an electrical
conductor, the tubular socket member
consisting of a single part; and

[a pin contact; and]

15 the second piece of the female socket
contact being a [tubular] spring member in the
form of a sleeve seated in the first [hole]
blind bore of the tubular socket member and
establishing a [tight] press fit therein to
20 prevent movement of the spring member relative
to the tubular socket member, the spring
member having a forwardly extending female
coupling portion terminating adjacent the open

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one
free end of the first blind bore, said [hole,
the] male pin contact being inserted into the
open free end and grasped by the female
coupling portion.

Claim 15, line 3, delete "members" and insert
therefore - -member- -.

1 16. ~~17.~~ (Amended) The contact defined in claim 14
wherein the female coupling portion grasps the male
contact at a distance within the range of about .025 to
.045 inches of the [first] open free end of the first
blind bore.

1 17. ~~18.~~ (Amended) A method for making a two piece female
socket contact comprising the steps of:

[providing a tubular] forming a sleeve
spring member having a rear end and a female
coupling portion at a forward end;

5 [providing] forming a separate one piece
socket body having first and second tubular
portions separated by a solid center section,
each of the first and second portions having a
10 wall surrounding a blind bore therein, the
blind bore in the first tubular portion [with
bore] having [a wall,] a free open end for
receiving the spring member and the blind bore
in the second tubular portion adapted to

15 receive a conductor [a conductor receiving
end];

 inserting the spring member entirely
within the blind bore in the first tubular
portion of the socket body to form a press fit
20 with the female coupling portion being
positioned adjacent to the free open end of
the blind bore in the first tubular portion;

 [crimping the socket body wall onto the
spring member to push a portion of the socket
body wall into the spring member to hold the
25 two together];

 providing an electrical conductor; and
 inserting the electrical conductor into
the blind bore in the second tubular portion
30 and crimping the wall of the second tubular
portion onto the electrical conductor [socket
body at the conductor receiving end, ~~and~~ ^{therefore} ~~and~~]

 crimping the socket body wall onto the
conductor].

1 18. ~~18~~ (Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ ¹⁷ further
comprising the step of:

 providing a male contact; and
 inserting the male contact into the
5 spring contact female coupling portion

establishing an electrical coupling
therebetween.

1 ¹⁹~~20~~. (Amended) The method of claim ¹⁷~~18~~ [19] wherein
the [spring member is formed with a] female coupling
portion of the spring member is formed with a [in the
form of a] plurality of resilient fingers which are
spread apart upon the insertion of a [the] male contact.

5 ²⁰~~21~~. (Amended) The method of claim ¹⁹~~20~~ wherein the
plurality of resilient fingers of the spring member have
a proximal end positioned adjacent the free open end of
the blind bore in the first tubular portion [spring
5 receiving end] of the socket body [bore] and further
including the step of rolling the wall of the first
tubular portion of the socket body adjacent the free open
end of the blind bore in the first tubular portion
[spring member receiving end] to form an inwardly
10 projecting shoulder which limits the outward movement of
the spring member and [proximal end of the resilient
fingers to thereby] and inhibits damage to the spring
member by an oversize mating male pin.